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(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR HUMAN JOINT TREATMENT PLAN AND PERSONALIZED SURGERY PLANNING USING 3-D KINEMATICS, FUSION IMAGING AND SIMULATION**

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USPC ..... 707/748  
See application file for complete search history.

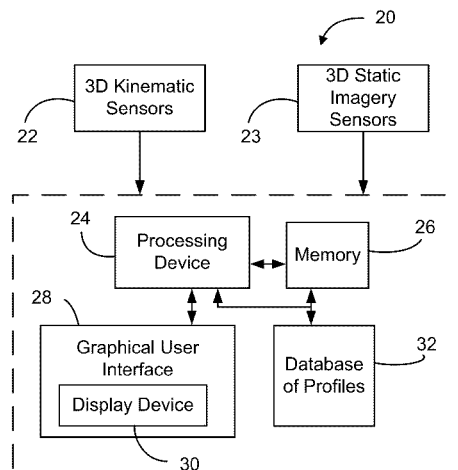
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(57) **ABSTRACT**  
The present document describes a method for producing a knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient, the method comprising: obtaining 3D kinematic data of the knee joint in movement; determining, from the 3D kinematic data, scores characterizing the joint function of the patient, the one or more scores being relative to one or more criteria; and comparing the scores to data in a database which characterize a plurality of treatment plans and/or surgery plans to generate the list of one or more treatment plans and/or surgery plans which match the scores.

**20 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets**



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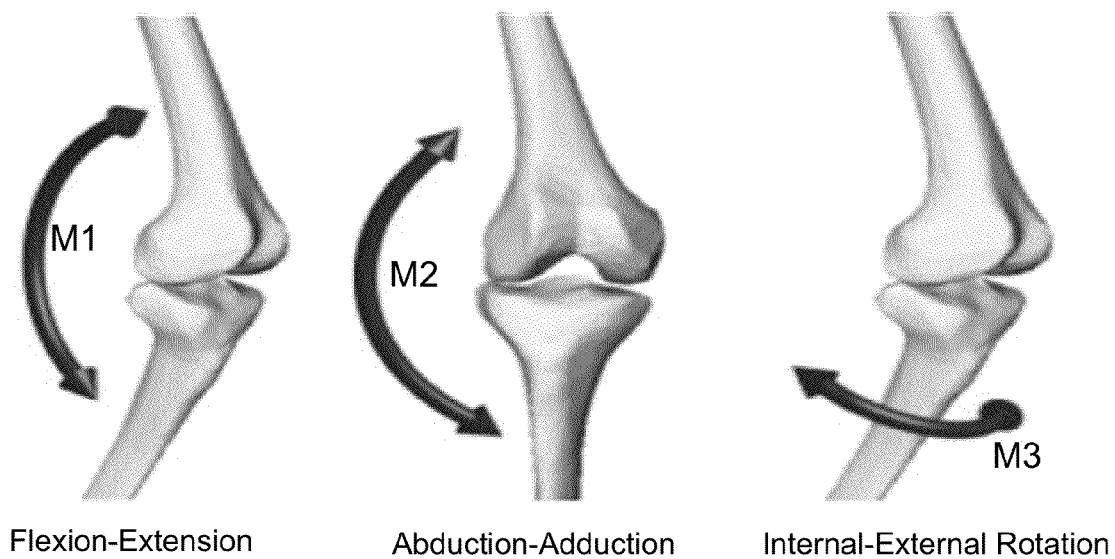


Fig. 1a (Prior Art)

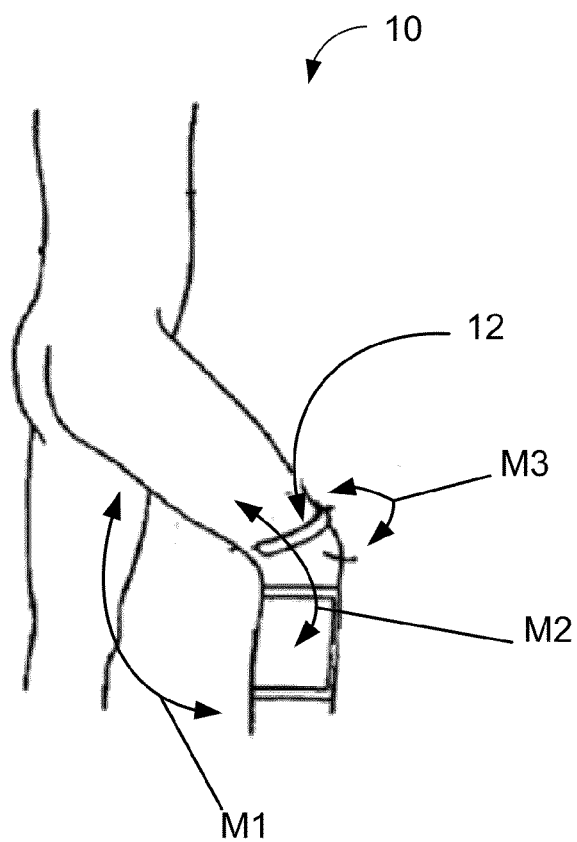


Fig. 1b

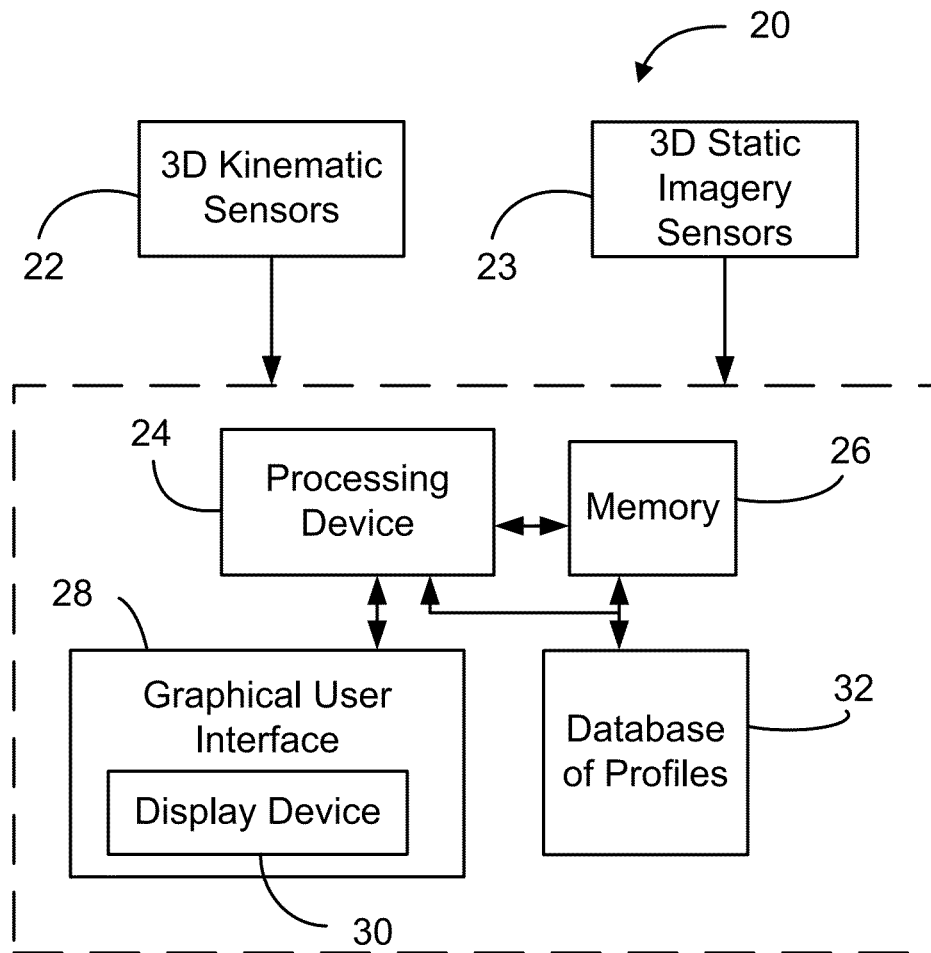


Fig. 2

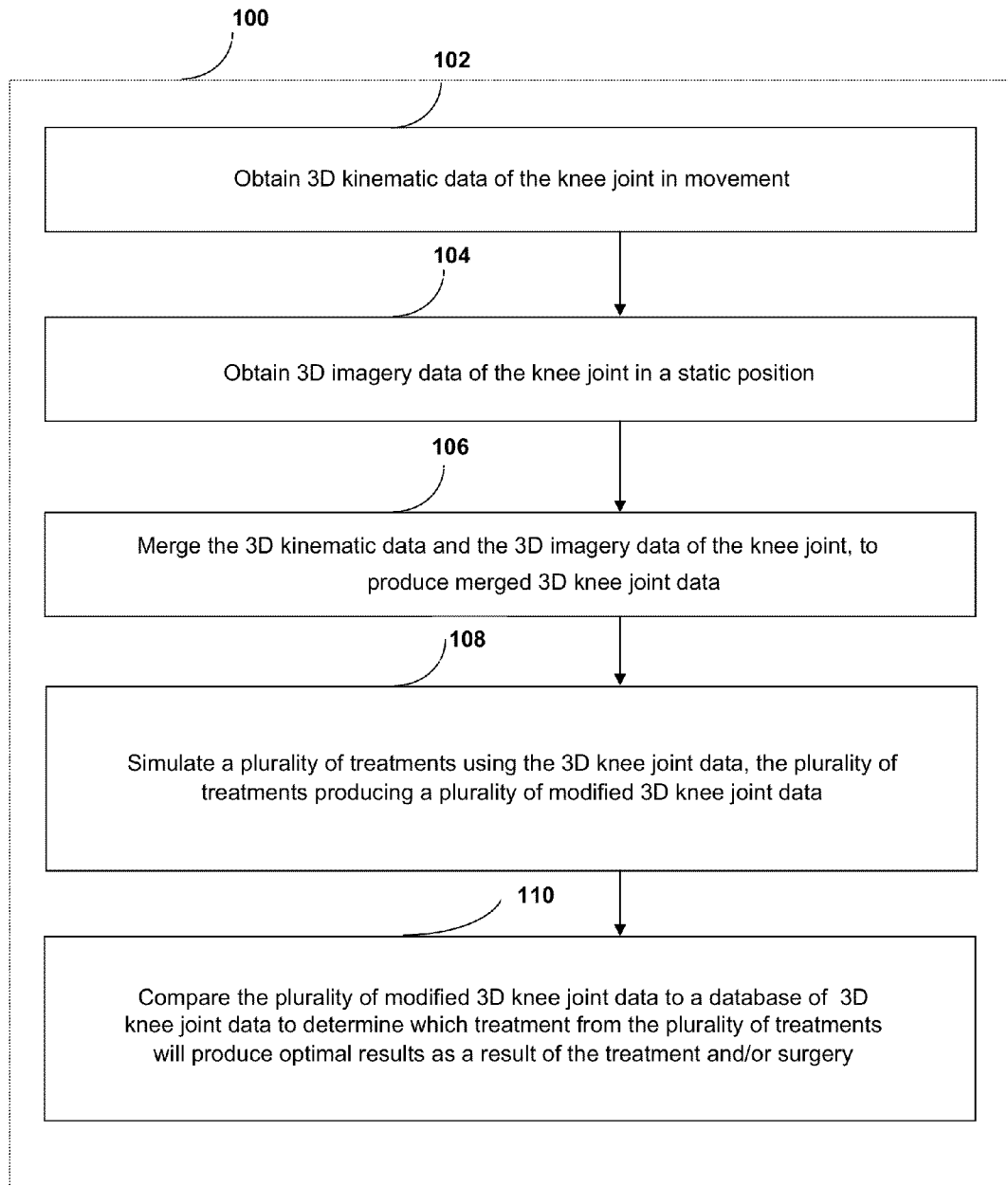
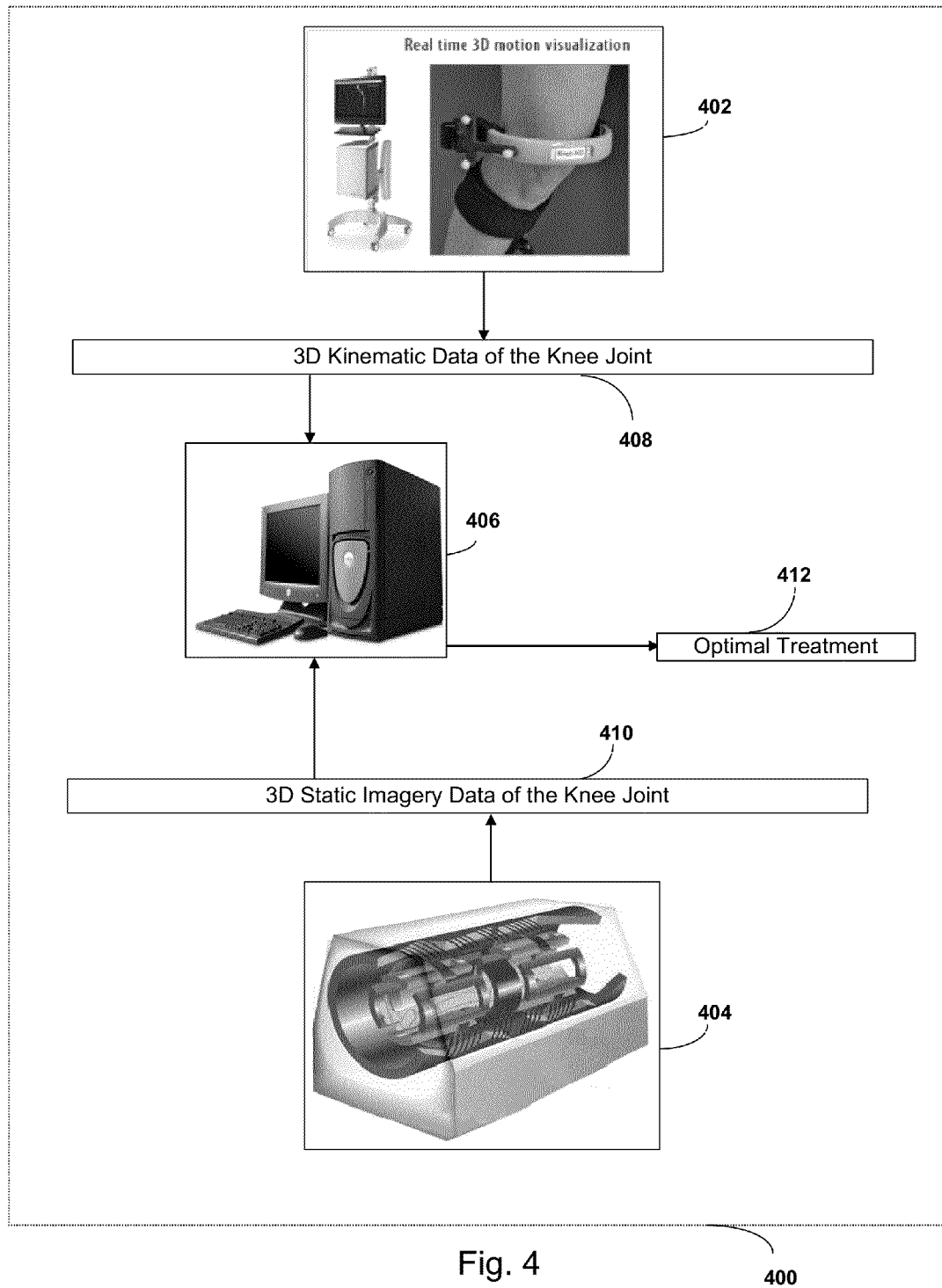


Fig. 3



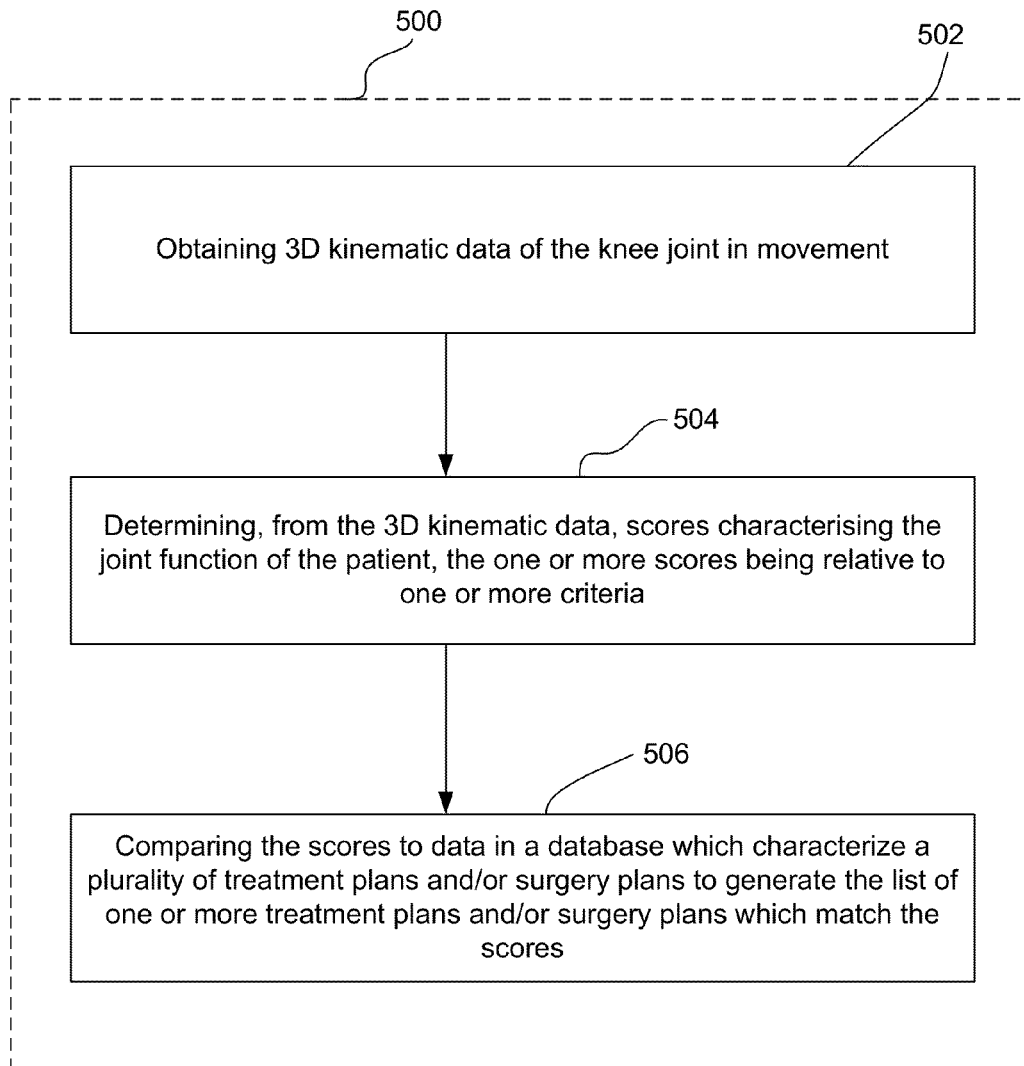


Fig. 5

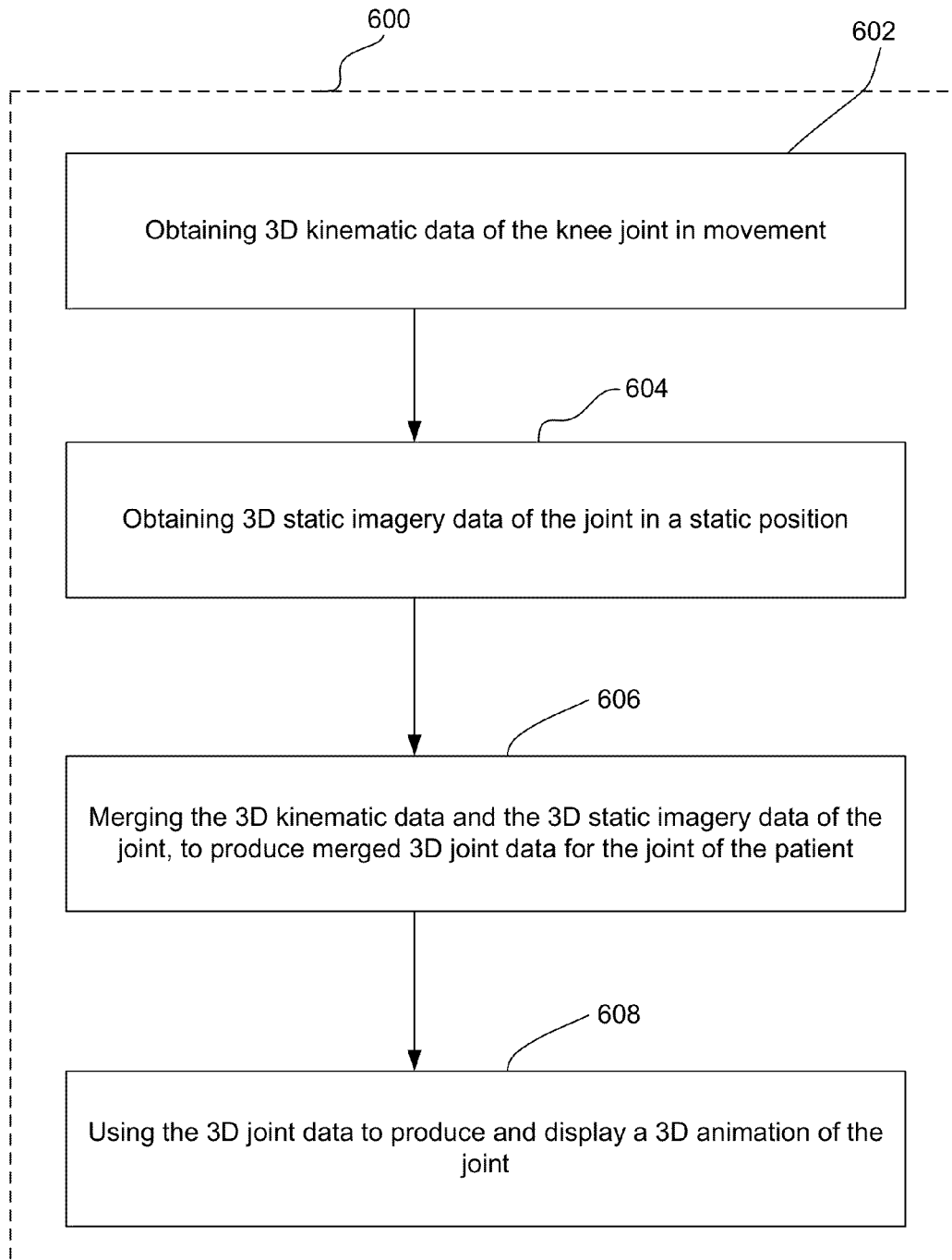


Fig. 6



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# METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR HUMAN JOINT TREATMENT PLAN AND PERSONALIZED SURGERY PLANNING USING 3-D KINEMATICS, FUSION IMAGING AND SIMULATION

## CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority from U.S. Application No. 61/587,116 dated Jan. 16, 2012.

## BACKGROUND

### (a) Field

The subject matter disclosed generally relates to tools for planning surgery and or treatment. More specifically, the subject matter relates to such tools applied to the context of human joints.

### (b) Related Prior Art

There exists a host of 3D knee biomechanical data which are precisely and repeatedly acquired by data acquisition system such as the KneeKG™ pre- and post-treatment.

Systems known in the arts dealing with surgery planning are based mostly on information obtained by reviewing medical imagery in static conditions and 3D simulation based on the static information. Systems known in the art may be radiography, magnetic resonance, CT Scans, KT-1000, specified clinical tests (i.e. pivot shift test and Lachman test) and the like. Current methods also involve the use of radiological examinations (such as X-rays, MRI, and CT-Scans). Such exams however remain limited in terms of their capacity to evaluate various functional aspects of the knee joint, and typically cannot be performed while the knee is moving (i.e. they are static in nature).

Other existing methods used for knee joint treatment planning for knee pathologies typically involve static imaging combined with manual testing (ligament laxity). Since these tests rely on manual testing and patient compliance, they are tainted by a certain amount of subjectivity.

Moreover, some existing methods permit quantification of anteroposterior movement of the tibia with respect to the femur (such as the KT-1000) in a knee joint treatment planning for knee pathologies. These methods however do not permit precise and reliable evaluation of the knee joint for a knee joint treatment planning for knee pathologies as they are typically limited to performing a static evaluation of a translation movement. Such methods are typically not suitable for performing an evaluation while a movement is being performed by the knee joint.

However, it is more and more recognized that the treatment must take into account the patient's mechanical articulation under dynamic and weight bearing conditions. A problem that therefore exists is the integration of these two types of information for various patients.

To this day, this problem is not yet resolved. Doctors do not integrate weight bearing 3D biomechanical information in the surgery treatment planning and when taking charge of a patient (for lack of tools). They only use 2D information and/or static information and make adjustments during surgery.

Major deficiencies are that many adjustments are required during the surgery. Doctors avoid this problem by applying generic techniques which are not optimal for all patients.

There is therefore a need for a method and for a system for knee joint treatment plan and personalized surgery planning

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and simulation using patient specific weight bearing kinematics with fusion of 3D imaging.

## SUMMARY

There is described herein a system for knee joint treatment planning for knee pathologies (i.e.: osteoarthritis, patello-femoral pain syndrome, anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) lesion, meniscus lesion, tendonitis and the like) based on 3D kinematic data. The system uses 3D biomechanical data classification methods.

According to an embodiment, there is provided a method for generating a list of one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans for a joint of a patient, the method comprising:

obtaining, from motion sensors, 3D kinematic data of the joint in movement;

determining, from the 3D kinematic data, scores characterizing a joint function of the patient, the scores being relative to one or more criteria; and

comparing the scores to data in a database which characterize a plurality of treatment plans and/or surgery plans to generate the list of one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans which match the scores.

According to an aspect, the method further comprises simulating the one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans using the 3D kinematic data to produce a plurality of modified 3D kinematic data.

According to an aspect, the method further comprises comparing the plurality of modified 3D kinematic data to kinematic data for a healthy joint model to determine which one from the list of one or more treatment plans and/or surgery plans will produce optimal results for the patient.

According to an aspect, the comparing comprises applying a pattern recognition technique on the modified 3D kinematic data, the pattern recognition technique comprising one of: a parametric or non-parametric technique, a neural network, a nearest neighbour classification technique, a projection technique, a decision tree technique, a stochastic method, a genetic algorithms and an unsupervised learning and clustering technique.

According to an aspect, the comparing further comprises classifying the modified 3D kinematic data of the joint of the patient, to which were applied the pattern recognition technique, in one of several classes of known knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan.

According to an aspect, the obtaining 3D kinematic data from a 3D kinematic sensor comprises obtaining 3D kinematic data from at least one of: a camera, an accelerometer, an electromagnetic sensor, a gyroscope, an optical sensor.

According to an aspect, the method further comprises:

obtaining, from a 3D static imagery sensor, 3D static imagery data of the joint in a static position;

merging the 3D kinematic data and the 3D static imagery data of the joint, to produce merged 3D joint data for the joint of the patient; and

using the 3D joint data to produce and display a 3D animation of the joint.

According to an aspect, the method further comprises simulating the one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans using the 3D joint data to produce a plurality of modified 3D joint data.

According to an aspect, the method further comprises comparing the plurality of modified 3D joint data to joint data for a healthy joint model to determine which one from the list of one or more treatment plans and/or surgery plans will produce optimal results for the patient.

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According to an aspect, the method further comprises recalibrating the 3D joint data for a healthy joint model to adapt to measurements of the patient and thereby produce recalibrated 3D joint data for use as the 3D joint data for comparison to the plurality of modified 3D joint data.

According to an aspect, the joint comprises one of a knee, a shoulder, a wrist, an ankle, an elbow and a hip.

According to an aspect, the method further comprises installing the 3D kinematic sensor on the patient.

According to an aspect, the method further comprises storing the 3D kinematic data in memory.

According to an embodiment, there is provided a method for producing a 3D animation of a joint of patient, the 3D animation used in the determination of a list of one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans for the joint of the patient, the method comprising:

obtaining, from motion sensors, 3D kinematic data of the joint in movement;

obtaining, from a 3D static imagery sensor, 3D static imagery data of the joint in a static position;

merging the 3D kinematic data and the 3D static imagery data of the joint, to produce merged 3D joint data for the joint of the patient; and

using the 3D joint data to produce and display a 3D animation of the joint.

According to an aspect, the method further comprises simulating the one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans using the 3D joint data to produce a plurality of modified 3D joint data.

According to an aspect, the method further comprises comparing the plurality of modified 3D joint data to joint data for a healthy joint model to determine which one from the list of one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans will produce optimal results for the patient.

According to an aspect, the method further comprises recalibrating the 3D joint data for a healthy joint model to adapt to measurements of the patient and thereby produce recalibrated 3D joint data for use as the 3D joint data for comparison to the plurality of modified 3D joint data.

According to an aspect, the recalibrating comprises performing one of a dot by dot technique and a regionalization technique.

According to an aspect, the obtaining 3D static imagery data from a static imagery sensor comprises obtaining 3D static imagery data from a radiological examination device comprising one of an X-ray machine, a Magnetic Resonance Imaging machine and a CT scanning machine.

According to an aspect, the method further comprises storing the 3D joint data for a healthy joint model in a database.

According to an embodiment, there is provided an apparatus for producing a joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a joint of a patient, the apparatus comprising:

an input for receiving 3D kinematic data of the joint in movement;

a processing device in communication with the input;

a memory for storing instructions which cause the processing device to:

determine, from the 3D kinematic data, scores characterising a joint function of the patient, the one or more scores being relative to one or more criteria; and

compare the scores to data in a database which characterize a plurality of treatment plans and/or surgery plans to generate the list of one or more treatment plans and/or surgery plans which match the scores; and

an output for outputting the list of one or more treatment plans and/or surgery plans which match the scores.

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According to an embodiment, there is provided a system for producing a joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for joint of a patient, the system comprising:

a 3D kinematic data acquisition apparatus for obtaining 3D kinematic data of the joint in movement;

a computing device for:

determining, from the 3D kinematic data, scores characterising a joint function of the patient, the one or more scores being relative to one or more criteria;

comparing the scores to data in a database which characterize a plurality of treatment plans and/or surgery plans to generate the list of one or more treatment plans and/or surgery plans which match the scores; and

outputting the list of one or more treatment plans and/or surgery plans which match the scores.

The following terms are defined for the present disclosure.

The term “3D kinematic data” is intended to mean data representative of a combination of position, speed and acceleration of a body member such as a bone involved in a knee joint for example, irrespective of any physical force applied thereto. 3D kinematic data are obtained using motion sensors such as those employed in creating animation-type movies.

By comparison, the term “3D static imagery data” is intended to mean a data representative of a sole position. 3D static imagery data involve, for instance, the use of radiological examinations such as, without limitations, X-rays, MRI, and CT-Scans.

Even though the present disclosure provides specific examples related to knee joints, the present disclosure is meant to include other human joints such as shoulders, elbows, wrists, ankles, hips, etc.

Features and advantages of the subject matter hereof will become more apparent in light of the following detailed description of selected embodiments, as illustrated in the accompanying figures. As will be realized, the subject matter disclosed and claimed is capable of modifications in various respects, all without departing from the scope of the claims. Accordingly, the drawings and the description are to be regarded as illustrative in nature, and not as restrictive and the full scope of the subject matter is set forth in the claims.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Further features and advantages of the present disclosure will become apparent from the following detailed description, taken in combination with the appended drawings, in which:

FIG. 1a is an illustration of the femur and the tibia of a knee joint, which shows three planes of motion of the knee joint, in accordance with common general knowledge associated with the prior art;

FIG. 1b is an illustration of a patient's knee joint with a sensor, and showing the three planes of motion of FIG. 1a, in accordance with an embodiment;

FIG. 2 is a bloc diagram of an apparatus for producing a knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient, in accordance with an embodiment;

FIG. 3 is a flow chart of a method for producing a knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient, in accordance with an embodiment;

FIG. 4 is a schematic illustration of the system for producing a knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient, in accordance with an embodiment;

FIG. 5 is a flow chart of a method for producing a knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient, in accordance with another embodiment; and

FIG. 6 is a flow chart of a method for producing a 3D animation of a joint of patient, in accordance with an embodiment.

It will be noted that throughout the appended drawings, like features are identified by like reference numerals.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

This disclosure deals with multiclass problems. These multiclass problems may be dealt with using treatments such as, without limitations, arthritis-Total Knee Arthroplasty (TKA); conservative treatments such as, without limitation, physical therapy, orthotics, bracing and taping; surgical treatments or techniques such as, without limitations, implant alignment, implant type, tunnel alignment, graft type and viscosupplement (pharmacological). This leads to the knee joint treatment plan described herein.

The system which was developed will not only permit the possibility of assigning a class of treatment to a subject, but also to personalize the treatment plan and surgery. Weight bearing 3D kinematic data are used (determined by the speeds and acceleration of movement; flexion/extension curve; abduction/adduction and internal/external tibial rotation). Global and unique information for a patient is used. 3D static imagery data and 3D kinematic data as well as other pertinent 3D information are merged in order to simulate different treatments to optimize treatment planning (conservative and surgical).

This disclosure presents the following advantages: it is a treatment method that is objective and non-invasive; and it is unique in that it permits the integration of 3D biomechanical measurements (3D kinematic data) in weight bearing conditions and 3D anatomy data (3D static imagery data) from the patient as well as other 3D tools.

The method uses data such as those produced by the KneeKG™ system and performs biomechanics surgery planning (e.g., TKA, ACL reconstruction and others) by using the kinematic data co-ordinates of KneeKG™ on a rebuilt 3D model of the bones of the patient (from, for example, a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)) and by superimposing thereon a 3D model of the implant of the knee selected by the surgeon. Thanks to this tool, it is possible to determine, in simulation, if there are possibilities of reduction or loss of the range of motion of the knee. Another use of this product in surgery planning is to personalize the cut blocks and even the implants by taking into account the biomechanics of the patient.

In embodiments there are disclosed a method and an apparatus for producing a knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient.

Referring now to the drawings and more particularly to FIG. 1b, there is shown a typical patient 10, here a human, whereby knee joint 3D kinematic data is collected using a 3D kinematic data sensor device 12, which is worn by the patient 10 over a knee joint. According to an embodiment, the 3D kinematic data is weight bearing 3D kinematic data; 3D kinematic data gathered under weight bearing conditions. The 3D kinematic data sensor device 12 is non-invasive and remains on a surface of the skin of the patient 10. It is to be noted that many types of 3D kinematic data sensor devices can be used for such purposes. Examples include optical tracking devices; electromagnetic tracking devices and accelerometers.

As seen in FIGS. 1a and 1b, a knee joint is able to move according to three different planes of motion; each of these allowing two degrees of freedom.

First plane of motion: Flexion-Extension illustrated by arrow M1: This motion refers to the capacity of movement of the knee joint to move the leg towards (flexion) the back of the thigh, and away (extension).

Second plane of motion: Abduction-Adduction illustrated by arrow M2: This motion refers to the capacity of movement of the knee joint to arc the leg towards a center axis of the body. As an example, an Abduction-Adduction plane can be apparent in a subject who as a “cowboy-like” demeanor, although this type of movement is typically subtle in most human patients.

Third plane of motion: Internal-External Rotation illustrated by arrow M3: This motion refers to the capacity of movement of the knee joint to rotate about itself (or about an axis of rotation substantially along a longitudinal plane of the leg).

The 3D kinematic data sensor device 12 monitors 3D kinematic data reflective of each of the three above described plane of motion. The 3D kinematic data gathered is thus indicative of three planes of movement (6 degrees of freedom) per knee joint of a patient.

As most knee joint disorders (be it knee osteoarthritis, anterior cruciate ligament rupture, meniscal tear, patellofemoral syndrome) have a concrete impact on knee joint movement, these can be associated to specific 3D kinematic data gathered during knee movement. Also, an abnormal knee joint movement is determined by 3D kinematic data recordings and, in some instances, is also informative for producing a knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient.

A database stores 3D knee joint data each associated with a given knee joint treatment and/or surgery plan for a patient. The 3D knee joint data are preloaded based on the 3D kinematic data gathered from various patients and from 3D static imagery data also gathered from various patients. For a given set of 3D knee joint data, various knee joint treatments and/or surgery plans for a patient made using a set of various means, such as imagery, expert evaluation and 3D kinematic data, are correlated with one another in order to ensure that the final knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient associated to the 3D knee joint data is accurate. In this way, the 3D knee joint data are each associated to a knee joint treatment and/or surgery plan for a patient.

Upon comparison of the 3D knee joint data with modified 3D knee joint data of a given patient, at least one knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan is determined directly and automatically and according to a quantified level of reliability, as described in greater detail below.

FIG. 2 is a schematic illustration of an apparatus for producing a knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient, in accordance with an embodiment. The apparatus 20 has a set of 3D kinematic sensors 22 and 3D static imagery sensors 23 in communication with a processing device 24, a memory 26, a graphical user interface (GUI) 28, a display device 30, and a database 32.

In one embodiment, the 3D kinematic sensors 22 have tracking devices (not shown) to track position, speed and acceleration of various parts of the knee during a movement of the knee joint to generate 3D kinematic data associated to the knee joint movement as it is being performed. In this case, the 3D kinematic sensors 22 are sensing devices adapted to be attached to the patient's knee joint or other portion of the limb under evaluation. In other cases, the 3D kinematic sensors 22 are force sensors positioned so as to measure either one or a combination of 3D kinematic data and ground reaction forces during movement. Other examples of 3D kinematic sensors 22 include, but are not limited to, cameras, accelerometers and gyroscopes which are respectively positioned, for

example, on the femur and the tibia of the patient. Once the 3D kinematic data are gathered from the 3D kinematic sensors **22**, it is sent from the 3D kinematic sensors **22** to the processing device **24**, and optionally stored to the memory.

3D static imagery data of the knee joint are also gathered in a static position from 3D static imagery sensors **23**. Once the 3D static imagery data are gathered from the 3D static imagery sensors **23**, it is sent from the 3D static imagery sensors **23** to the processing device **24**, and optionally stored to the memory. Examples of the 3D static imagery sensors **23** may be, without limitation, the use of radiological examinations such as X-rays, MRI, and CT-Scans.

Once received at the processing device **24**, either after the movement or during the time the movement is being performed, the 3D kinematic data and the 3D static imagery data are processed in the processing device **24**. The processing device **24** merges the 3D kinematic data and the 3D static imagery data of the knee joint, to produce merged 3D knee joint data, in accordance with instructions stored in the memory **26**. Such processing results in a 3D knee joint data of the knee joint. The 3D knee joint data is generated based on 3D kinematic data and is indicative of at least one of the three planes of motion M1, M2 and M3 of the knee joint, as discussed above in relation with FIGS. **1a** and **1b**. Moreover, the 3D knee joint data is generated based on the 3D static imagery data and is indicative of a static position of the knee joint.

In an embodiment, a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is used for reconstruction of a knee joint. For the fusion imaging to be performed (i.e., the merge of 3D kinematic data and the 3D static imagery data), axes corresponding to functional axes found in the KneeKG calibration are defined based on the healthy knee joint model, the healthy knee joint model being stored in a data library. The healthy knee joint model may then be recalibrated using a recalibrating algorithm (i.e.: a dot by dot technique) to adjust to a given patient's knee joint. A regionalization technique may also be used. The transformed (i.e., recalibrated) healthy knee joint model becomes the knee joint model used for a given patient during a surgery and/or during a treatment planning.

3D knee joint data are stored in the database **32** in association with at least one class (e.g., knee osteoarthritis, anterior cruciate ligament rupture, meniscal tear, patello-femoral syndrome) of knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient. A class has one or more knee joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans, which are known to be associated thereto.

Still referring to FIG. **2**, the 3D knee joint data are retrieved from database **32** by the processing device **24**. The processing device **24** then proceeds by applying a pattern recognition technique on these 3D knee joint data, from which a classification of the 3D knee joint data of the knee joint under analysis is made by processing device **24**.

The pattern recognition and the classification are performed in the processing device **24**. Various types of pattern recognition (also referred to pattern classification) techniques can be used, as per instructions (also referred to as coding) stored in the memory **26**. For example, any computer implemented pattern recognition technique between the 3D knee joint data and a knee joint treatment and/or surgery plan is used, such as, for example, any type of machine learning techniques to provide an automated machine classification and decision-making based on the 3D knee joint data.

A non-exhaustive list of possible implementations used for pattern recognition includes: a parametric or non-parametric technique, a neural network, a nearest neighbour classification technique, a projection technique, a decision tree tech-

nique, a stochastic method, a genetic algorithms and an unsupervised learning and clustering technique.

The processing device **24** proceeds to classify the 3D knee joint data of the knee joint into one of several classes of known knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient, based on the results from the pattern recognition technique.

Once the classification of the 3D knee joint data is done, a knee joint treatment plan and/or a surgery plan for a patient is identified based on the class(es) in which the 3D knee joint data has been classified, and the identified knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient is outputted by the processing device **24**.

More particularly, the knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient identified corresponds to the knee joint plan in the class of knee joint plans under which the 3D knee joint data has been classified by the processing device **24**. For example, if the 3D knee joint data is classified in a class of knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan associated to a meniscus tear, then the identified plan corresponds or at least comprises a knee joint treatment plan or a surgery plan for the meniscus tear.

In some instances, the plan identified can in fact combine more than one knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan when the 3D knee joint data is classified in a class associate to more than one plan.

In addition, the database **32** can store the 3D knee joint data for the knee joint of different patients, any type of patient-identification data, and the 3D kinematic data and 3D static imagery data received from the 3D kinematic sensors **22** and 3D static imagery sensors **23**. In one embodiment, the database **32** stores a plurality of sets of 3D knee joint data; each set being associated to a particular class of plans (knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient).

The GUI **28** and the display device **30** are in communication with one another and with the processing device **24** (and in one embodiment, with the memory **26**). The GUI **28** receives either one or a combination of the classification for the knee joint under analysis and the identified plan, whichever appropriate in a specific class. In either case, however, the GUI **28** displays either one or a combination of the classification and the particular plan identified, including a description of the knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan involved, on the display device **30**. The GUI **28** may also display the 3D knee joint problem generated from the 3D kinematic data and the 3D static imagery data.

The GUI **28** allows user interaction such that a particular display setting is activated on the display device **30**, to show either or a combination of: the 3D knee joint data, the knee joint treatment plan and/or the surgery plan relevant to the 3D knee joint data identified, in accordance with a user preference.

Still in reference to FIG. **2**, it is noted that in one embodiment, the kinematic sensors **22** are embodied as a commonly available 3D knee movement analyser such as the one described in U.S. Pat. No. 7,291,119, and having a set of tracking sensors suited to obtain 3D kinematic data for tibio-femoral movements of a knee joint. The 3D kinematic sensors **22** can however be of any type of dynamic 1D, 2D or 3D knee analyzer based on either one or a combination of available technologies such as provide for the monitital, electromagnetic, accelerometers, which provide for the monitoring of an acceleration, position and speed.

In addition to the above-noted apparatus **20**, it is noted that in one embodiment, the apparatus **20** is adapted to perform any of the below-detailed steps of a method **100** for producing a knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient,

described in relation to FIG. 3. The method **100** comprises the step **102** of obtaining 3D kinematic data of the knee joint in movement. The 3D kinematic data is representative of a movement performed by a knee joint, in accordance with one of the three planes of movement defined above in reference to FIGS. **1a** and **1b**. The method **100** further comprises the step **104** of obtaining 3D static imagery data of the knee joint in a static position. According to another embodiment, step **104** is replaced by obtaining 3D dynamic imagery data such as from a dynamic MRI or from Radiostereometric Analysis (RSA). Moreover, the method **100** comprises the step **106** of merging the 3D kinematic data and the 3D static imagery data of the knee joint, to produce merged 3D knee joint data. The method **100** further comprises the step **108** of simulating a plurality of treatments using the 3D knee joint data, when the plurality of treatments produces a plurality of modified 3D knee joint data. Furthermore, the method **100** comprises the step **110** of comparing the plurality of modified 3D knee joint data to a database of 3D knee joint data to determine which treatment from the plurality of treatments will produce optimal results as a result of the treatment and/or surgery.

The identification of such knee joint treatments is performed by a computer device in accordance to this method **100** and thereby provides assistance in medical treatments and surgeries.

In an embodiment, the knee joint treatments are archived for further analysis, reporting or display on an output of any type, such as email or other network-based notification addressed to authenticated users for example.

In an embodiment, the method **100** also optionally involves displaying the 3D knee joint data and/or the knee joint treatment plan and/or surgical plan for a patient in accordance with a given format. The format can be as per a user entered preference(s) or set by default. In one embodiment, the displaying optionally involves generating a set of graphical illustrations to represent the data according to at least one of the three planes of motion as they are sensed by the motion sensor during the movement. In one embodiment, the planes of motion are provided in terms of degrees, and the time elapsed during the movement of the knee joint is provided in terms of percentage of the movement performed.

Now referring to FIG. 4, there is shown a schematic illustration of a system **400** for producing a knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient, in accordance with an embodiment. The system **400** comprises 3D knee kinematic data acquisition apparatus **402**, a 3D knee static imagery data acquisition apparatus **404** (such as X-rays, MRI, and CT-Scans) and a computing device **406**. The 3D knee kinematic data acquisition apparatus **402** obtains the 3D knee kinematic data **408**. The 3D knee static imagery data acquisition apparatus **404** obtains the 3D knee static imagery data **410**. Both the 3D knee kinematic data **408** and the 3D knee static imagery data **410** are fed to the computing device **406** which merges them to produce 3D knee joint data and simulates a plurality of treatments using the 3D knee joint data to finally determine which treatment from the plurality of treatments will produce optimal results **412** as a result of the treatment and/or surgery.

Now referring to FIG. 5, there is shown a flow chart of a method **500** for producing a knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient, in accordance with an embodiment. The method **500** for producing a knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a patient may comprise the step **502** of obtaining, from motion sensors, 3D kinematic data of the knee joint in movement, the step **504** of determining, from the 3D kinematic data, scores characterising the joint function of the patient, the one or more scores being relative to one or

more criteria; and the step **506** of comparing the scores to data in a database which characterize a plurality of treatment plans and/or surgery plans to generate the list of one or more treatment plans and/or surgery plans which match the scores.

In an embodiment, the criteria; for the scores include, but are not limited to, varus thrust, flexum, fixed flexion, and dynamic vargus. The table shows an exemplary case study in a conservative mode treatment for different scores characterizing the joint functions of a patient.

Criteria	Score (degrees)	Treatment/surgery plan
Flexum at heel strike	11.3	Stretching of the hamstrings and calf muscles; strengthening of the quadriceps muscles (working the quadriceps in the last degrees of knee extension); make the heel strike with full extension to diminish pressure between the femora and patella)
External Tibial Rotation at heel strike	8.5	Stretching of the tensor fasciae latae and the biceps femoris muscles
Internal tibial rotation movement	5.3	Physiotherapy: assess muscles deficits associated with internal femoral rotation during the loading phase loading phase, assess hip abductors muscles, assess the pertinence of proprioceptive knee taping

Now referring to FIG. 6, there is shown an embodiment of a method **600** for producing a 3D animation of a joint of patient. The 3D animation is used to help the physician in the determination of a list of one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans for the joint of the patient and in the selection of the best joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans for the patient's condition. The method comprises: obtaining, from motion sensors, 3D kinematic data of the joint in movement (step **602**); obtaining, from a 3D static imagery sensor, 3D static imagery data of the joint in a static position (step **604**); merging the 3D kinematic data and the 3D static imagery data of the joint, to produce merged 3D joint data for the joint of the patient (step **606**); and using the 3D joint data to produce and display a 3D animation of the joint (step **608**). According to another embodiment, step **604** is replaced by obtaining 3D dynamic imagery data such as from a dynamic MRI or from Radiostereometric Analysis (RSA).

While preferred embodiments have been described above and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, it will be evident to those skilled in the art that modifications may be made without departing from this disclosure. Such modifications are considered as possible variants comprised in the scope of the disclosure.

The invention claimed is:

1. A method for generating a list of one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans for a joint of a patient, the method comprising:

obtaining, from motion sensors, 3D kinematic data of the joint in movement;

determining, from the 3D kinematic data, scores characterising a joint function of the patient, the scores being relative to one or more criteria; and

comparing the scores to data in a database which characterize a plurality of treatment plans and/or surgery plans to generate the list of one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans which match the scores.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising simulating the one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans using the 3D kinematic data to produce a plurality of modified 3D kinematic data.

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3. The method of claim 2, further comprising comparing the plurality of modified 3D kinematic data to kinematic data for a healthy joint model to determine which one from the list of one or more treatment plans and/or surgery plans will produce optimal results for the patient.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the comparing comprises applying a pattern recognition technique on the modified 3D kinematic data, the pattern recognition technique comprising one of: a parametric or non-parametric technique, a neural network, a nearest neighbour classification technique, a projection technique, a decision tree technique, a stochastic method, a genetic algorithms and an unsupervised learning and clustering technique.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the comparing further comprises classifying the modified 3D kinematic data of the joint of the patient, to which were applied the pattern recognition technique, in one of several classes of known knee joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the obtaining 3D kinematic data from a 3D kinematic sensor comprises obtaining 3D kinematic data from at least one of: a camera, an accelerometer, an electromagnetic sensor, a gyroscope, an optical sensor.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

obtaining, from a 3D static imagery sensor, 3D static imagery data of the joint in a static position;

merging the 3D kinematic data and the 3D static imagery data of the joint, to produce merged 3D joint data for the joint of the patient; and

using the 3D joint data to produce and display a 3D animation of the joint.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising simulating the one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans using the 3D joint data to produce a plurality of modified 3D joint data.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising comparing the plurality of modified 3D joint data to joint data for a healthy joint model to determine which one from the list of one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans will produce optimal results for the patient.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising recalibrating the 3D joint data for a healthy joint model to adapt to measurements of the patient and thereby produce recalibrated 3D joint data for use as the 3D joint data for comparison to the plurality of modified 3D joint data.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the 3D kinematic data in memory.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the criteria at least comprise varus thrust, flexum, fixed flexion, and dynamic vargus.

13. A computer-implemented method for producing a 3D animation of a joint of patient, the 3D animation used in the determination of a list of one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans for the joint of the patient, the method comprising:

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at an input device:

obtaining, from motion sensors, 3D kinematic data of the joint in movement; and

obtaining, from a 3D static imagery sensor, 3D static imagery data of the joint in a static position; and

at a processing device in communication with the input device:

merging the 3D kinematic data and the 3D static imagery data of the joint, to produce merged 3D joint data for the joint of the patient;

using the 3D joint data to produce and display a 3D animation of the joint; and

generating the list of one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans for the joint of the patient.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising simulating the one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans using the 3D joint data to produce a plurality of modified 3D joint data.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising comparing the plurality of modified 3D joint data to joint data for a healthy joint model to determine which one from the list of one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans will produce optimal results for the patient.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising recalibrating the 3D joint data for a healthy joint model to adapt to measurements of the patient and thereby produce recalibrated 3D joint data for use as the 3D joint data for comparison to the plurality of modified 3D joint data.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the recalibrating comprises performing one of a dot by dot technique and a regionalization technique.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein the obtaining 3D static imagery data from a static imagery sensor comprises obtaining 3D static imagery data from a radiological examination device comprising one of an X-ray machine, a Magnetic Resonance Imaging machine and a CT scanning machine.

19. The method of claim 13, further comprising storing the 3D joint data for a healthy joint model in a database.

20. An apparatus for generating a list of one or more joint treatment plan and/or surgery plan for a joint of a patient, the apparatus comprising:

an input for receiving 3D kinematic data of the joint in movement;

a processing device in communication with the input;

a memory for storing instructions which cause the processing device to:

determine, from the 3D kinematic data, scores characterising a joint function of the patient, the one or more scores being relative to one or more criteria; and

compare the scores to data in a database which characterize a plurality of treatment plans and/or surgery plans to generate the list of one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans which match the scores; and

an output for outputting the list of one or more joint treatment plans and/or surgery plans which match the scores.

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